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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 AEC-11 OIC-04 IO-13 OMB-01

H-03 EB-11 RSR-01 /168 W
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R 231500Z AUG 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259
SECDEF
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3234
USNMR SHAPE
USINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3954

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, AUGUST

REF: A. USNATO 3839 B. USNATO 3867 C. STATE 166385 D. STATE 165537
NOTAL E. STATE 166362

SUMMARY. DURING AUGUST 22 MEETING, WORKING GROUP: AGREED
UPON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM; HEARD UK REP WITHDRAW UK PAPER ON
MEASURING COMBAT CAPABILITY AND CONCLUDED THAT FURTHER
SPECIFIC WORK ON SUCH MEASUREMENTS WAS FRUITLESS; CONTINUED
DISCUSSION ON SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OF THE US APRIL 30 PAPER
AND HELD INITIAL DISCUSSION ON STAFF GROUP'S REPORT ON THE
ASSESSMENT; CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF IMS PROPOSAL ON DATA;
DISCUSSED RESULTS OF MEETING OF SUB-GROUP ON VERIFICATION;
HEARD STATUS REPORTS OF SUB-GROUPS ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS
AND TAC AIR; AND RECEIVED PROPOSAL FROM UK REP CONCERNING
FURTHER TAC AIR WORK. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR
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AUGUST 29 WG MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (ADM MINTER) OPENED WORKING GROUP MEETING
AUGUST 22 BY SUGGESTING TWO AMENDMENTS TO REVISED WG WORK

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PROGRAM (REFTEL B):

A. RE PARA 3(3): SINCE SPC WOULD BE DEALING WITH POS-
SIBLE SOVIET REACTIONS TO ALLIED MBFR PROPOSALS, HE PROPOSED
DELETION OF TOPIC FROM WG WORK PROGRAM.

B. RE PARA 3(2): SINCE TOPICS OF ASSESSING THE EFFECTS
ON MC 14/3 AND ON THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD OF REDUCTION OPTIONS
WOULD BE ADDRESSED DURING REVIEWS OF SHAPE ASSESSMENTS, HE
SAW NO NEED FOR A SEPARATE LISTING OF THIS TOPIC IN THE WORK
PROGRAM.

2. UK (LLOYD), SUPPORTED BY CANADA AND NETHERLANDS BELIEVED
THAT FIRST TOPIC (PARA 3(1), REFTEL B) SHOULD BE AMENDED BY
ADDITION OF WORDS "AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF RELATED SHAPE
ASSESSMENTS". WG AGREED, US AD REFERENDUM. PER REFTEL C,
US REP RECALLED THAT NAC HAD AGREED THAT POLITICAL DECISIONS
SHOULD NOT AWAIT COMPLETION OF WG WORK.

3. ON THE UK'S PAPER ON COMBAT CAPABILITY, LLOYD EXPLAINED
THAT THE PAPER DID NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE HIS GOVERNMENT'S
APPROVAL; SHOULD NOT HAVE GONE TO THE SPC; BUT WAS
INTENDED AS A DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE WG. THE UK, HE SAID,
IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROBLEM. HIS GOVERNMENT'S
PRIMARY CONCERNS WERE: A. THAT EXPRESSING A REDUCTION AIM
IN TERMS OF A COMMON CEILING WOULD NOT NECESSARILY RESULT IN
A REDUCTION OF WARSAW PACT COMBAT CAPABILITY (FRG CONCURRED)
AND B. THAT NO POST-REDUCTION SITUATION SHOULD IMPEDE NATO
FORCE IMPROVEMENTS.

4. AS FAR AS MEASURING COMBAT CAPABILITY, HE CRITICIZED THE
STAFF GROUP'S PROPOSAL TO USE DIVISIONS (AC/276-WP(73)22 OF
AUGUST 13, POUCHED) AND SUGGESTED THAT COMBAT BRIGADES/
MOTOR RIFLE BRIGADES BE USED AS THE YARDSTICK. HE THEN WITH-
DREW THE UK'S PAPER ON "MEASURING COMBAT CAPABILITY" (USNATO
3733 NOTAL) AS A "FORMAL ITEM" AND SUGGESTED THAT THE STAFF
GROUP PAPER SHOULD BE SO WITHDRAWN.
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5. US REP MADE STATEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY CIRCULATED, DRAWN FROM REFTEL
D, EXPLAINING THAT IT HAD RELEVANCY TO COMBAT BRIGADES OR DIVISION AS
WELL AS TO STANDARD BATTLE GROUP (SBG). UK REP DISAGREED WITH US
STATEMENT THAT REFERENCE TO AGGREGATE PERSONNEL FIGURES IN DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE PACT WOULD SUFFICE; MOREOVER, IN REBUTTAL TO US
STATEMENT, UK REP UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL MAJOR WEAPONS WERE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUN IN UK PAPER.

6. NETHERLANDS (VAN DER GRAAF) CRITICIZED BOTH THE SBG AND
THE DIVISION AS A YARDSTICK FOR MEASURING COMBAT CAPABILITY
AND SUPPORTED SHAPE'S PROPOSAL (IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF US
PAPER OF APRIL 30) THAT CAPABIITY BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF
MANPOWER PLUS TANKS.

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7. CHAIRMAN AGREED TO WITHDRAW STAFF GROUP PAPER AND SUG-
GESTED THAT IF THE US PROPOSAL FOR THE FIRST PHASEW WERE
ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL, THE PROBLEM OF MEASURING COMBAT
CAPABILITY WAS NOT AN IMMEDIATE ONE.

8. CANADA (CDR BECKETT) SUPPORTED THE UK CONCEPT OF SBG AS
A USEFUL INTERNAL TOOL BUT POINTED OUT THAT, AS IN EARLIER
RELATIVE FORCE CAPABILITIES EFFORTS, IT WAS FALLIBLE TO THE DEGREE
THAT IT REQUIRED SUBJECT JUDGMENTS. HE CHARAC-
TERIZED THE STAFF GROUP PAPER AS UNCONVINCING AND BELIEVED
THAT FURTHER SPECIFIC WG WORK ON MEASURING RELATIVE COMBAT
CAPABILITY WOULD BE FRUITLESS.

9. CHAIRMAN CONCURRED AND SUGGESTED THAT STAFF GROUP MIGHT
PREPARE A PAPER FOR FURTHER WG CONSIDERATION WHICH IDENTIFIED
CONCERNS AND SET FORTH GENERAL PARAMETERS ON THIS TOPIC. NO
ONE DISSENTED.

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NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 AEC-11 OIC-04 IO-13 OMB-01

H-03 EB-11 RSR-01 /168 W
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1260
SECDEF
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3235
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT

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10. CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO DISCUSSION DURING AUGUST 14 WG
MEETING OF SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OF US PAPER M APRIL 30 AND
INVITED COMMENTS ON STAFF GROUP DRAFT REPORT OF ASSESSMENT
(AC276-WP(73)18/1 OF 20 AUGUST, POUCHED). IN RESPONSE TO
CANADIAN QUESTION, HE REPORTED THAT SHAPE WOULD BE SUBMITTING,
POSSIBLY THIS WEEK, AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NUCLEAR OPTION IN
THAT PAPER.

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11. US REP INDICATED HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON EITHER SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OR THE STAFF GROUP PAPER AND RESERVED HIS POSITION WITH REGARD TO ANY WG ACTION ON THE TOPIC.

12. CHAIRMAN INITIATED A PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF THE STAFF GROUP PAPER, DURING WHICH NUMEROUS CHANGES WERE PROPOSED BY UK. WHEN WG RECONVENED IN AFTERNOON A REVISED STAFF GROUP PAPER WAS CIRCULATED (SEPTEL) TO REFLECT MORNING'S DISCUSSION.

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13. CHAIRMAN THEN REFERRED TO IMS INTELLIGENCE DIVISION'S PROPOSAL TO USE ON INTERIM BASIS 435,000 FIGURE FOR SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN NGA (PARA 12, REF A) AND RECOMMENDED ITS ADOPTION. US REP DREW ON PARA 5, REFTEL E AND PROPOSED THAT FIGURE OF 450,000 BE USED ON AN INTERIM BASIS. FRG REP AND CHAIRMAN OF SUB-GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT PREFERRED 435,000, WITH LATTER INDICATING THAT LESSER FIGURE WOULD BE USED IN FILLING OUT FORMATS ON WARSAW PACT FORCES. WG CHAIRMAN CONCURRED. US REP OBJECTED AND UK REP PROPOSED THAT WG ACCEPT 450,000 AS TOTAL FIGURE AND USE SPECIFIC FIGURES IN COLUMN (2) OF AC/276-WP(73)4, PART 3, FOR DETAILS. NETHER-LANDS REP ACCEPTED PROPOSAL AND FRG AND US REPS ACCEPTED AD REFERENDUM.

14. CHAIRMAN OF SUB-GROUP ON VERIFICATION (LLOYD) REVIEWED RESULTS OF AUGUST 21 MEETING (USNATO 3922 NOTAL) AND RECOM-MENDED THAT WG TAKE UP HIS REPORT(SEPTEL). WHEN NO ONE OBJECTED, US REP RECALLED THAT HE HAD RESERVED HIS POSITION DURING SUB-GROUP MEETING AND THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT THAT RESERVATION PRECLUDED HIS AGREEING TO HAVE DOCUMENT CONSIDERED BY A BODY SUPERIOR TO THE SUB-GROUP. LLOYD URGED NEED FOR PROGRESS. CHAIRMAN (COL CULIN, ADM MINTER HAVING DEPARTED), PROPOSED THAT SUB-GROUP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BE PUT ON WG AGENDA FOR EARLY SEPTEMBER, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISO THAT IF ANY MEMBER OF THE SUB-GROUP OR WG SO REQUESTED, THE REPORT WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SUB-GROUP. US REP AGREED AD REF.

15. CHAIRMAN OF SUB-GROUP ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS (GOOSSENS) REPORTED SLIPPAGE IN SUB-GROUP'S TARGET DATES. WG CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT AC/276-WP(73)16(REVISED) OF AUGUST 9, 1973 (POUCHED) BE SENT SIMULTANEOUSLY TO SHAPE AND TO WG FOR COMMENT.

16. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SUB-GROUP ON TACTICAL AIR (LT COL SCHREIBER) GAVE BRIEF STATUS REPORT, AFTER WHICH LLOYD MADE A PROPOSAL CONCERNING FURTHER SGTA WORK. UK SOUGHT WG AGREE-MENT THAT DOAE SHOULD CONDUCT DYNAMIC ANALYSES ON NATO 10 PERCENT/WP 10 PERCENT TAC AIR REDUCTIONS AND ON NATO 10 PER-CENT/WP 30 PERCENT REDUCTIONS. UK PROPOSED THAT DOAE SHOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE ANALYSIS OF A THIRD MODEL: A REDUCTION OF

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FIFTY DUAL-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT ON NATO'S SIDE WITH NO COMPENSATORY
AIR REDUCTIONS ON WP SIDE. COMMENT: THIS PROPOSAL IS ALMOST
SECRET

CERTAINLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US OFFERING
FOR REDUCTION F-4 AIRCRAFT. END COMMENT. MOREOVER, UK PRO-
POSED THAT MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE HAVE A FULL TWO WEEKS TO
CONSIDER DOAE'S RESULTS BEFORE THEY ARE DISCUSSED IN SGTA AND
THAT CHAIRMAN OF SGTA SHOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF DOAE'S
RESULTS BEFORE MAKING HIS SUMMARY REPORT TO NATO(PARA 1E,
USNATO 3783 NOTAL). LLOYD SUGGESTED THAT HIS PROPOSALS BE
DISCUSSED AT NEXT WG MEETING.

17 NEXT MEETING OF WG IS SET FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29.
EXPECTED AGENDA ITEMS ARE:

A. SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OF THE US PAPER OF APRIL 30 AND
THE STAFF GROUP'S REVISED PAPER THEREON.

B. THE PROOPOSAL THAT ON AN INTERIM BASIS 450,000 BE
USED AS THE TOTAL FIGURE FOR SOVIET FORCES IN THE NGA AND
THE NATO DOCUMENT BE USED FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS.

C. THE MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS DOCUMENT, AC/276-
WP(73)16(REVISED).

D. THE UK PROPOSALS FOR SGTA FUTURE WORK.

18. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INSTRUCTIONS ON ABOVE AGENDA
ITEMS. RUMSFELD

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USINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
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